

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: KOGUT-O'CONNELL ET AL.)
Serial No: 09/879,270) Group Art:
Filed: June 12, 2001) 2154
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR)
MANAGING PREFERRED WEB SITE)
LINKS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.131

Judy J. Kogut-O'Connell, Ryan S. Carrington, Jackie L. Hill, Catherine Ng, and
Ann T. Storms declare and say that:

1. We are the inventors of the invention claimed in the above-identified patent application.
2. We conceived in the United States the invention disclosed and claimed in the above-identified patent application prior to May 5, 1999 and then reduced the invention to practice in the United States prior to May 5, 1999.
3. As evidence in support of this prior conception and reduction to practice, submitted herewith is the following evidence of activity done in the United States.

(a) Exhibit A is Lotus Freelance Presentation that describes the features of a procurement-oriented embodiment of the invention (Web-Key) in support of conception prior to May 5, 1999. Page 1 of Exhibit A generally defines the invention tool including an Intranet site of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs), links from the listing of URLs to the corresponding websites, and operation facilitation independent of a system user's running application as recited in independent claims 1, 5, and 9 of the application. Page 2 of Exhibit A describes the advantages of the invention, including consistency in communicating new websites, as well as updating, maintaining, and deleting websites. Page 2 of Exhibit A also specifies a repository of the websites made immediately accessible to new employees and a user interface as recited in independent claims 1, 5, and 9 of the application.

(b) Exhibit B is an email from co-inventor, Jackie Hill, which was forwarded by co-inventor, Ann Storms, both of which pre-date May 5, 1999. The subject email relates to a proposed draft of an announcement for the Web-key invention. In particular, Exhibit B provides instructions to Web Key users for installing the tool on a desktop (see paragraph 3). These instructions for installation and use of the tool clearly support conception and reduction to practice. This email further describes the elements of the invention as claimed in Applicants' independent claims 1, 5, and 9 of the application. Specifically, Exhibit B, paragraph 4 provides support for "receiving a request from a user client system to incorporate information relating to a web site into said web key tool." Paragraph 4 also provides instructions for requesting the addition of a site to the Web Key directory as recited in independent claims 1, 5, and 9. Additionally, Exhibit B,

paragraph 3 recites "[t]o gain access to this tool simply clicking (sic) on the button below and launch it." Thus, paragraph 3 provides support for "launching said web key tool." In addition, paragraphs 3 and 4 provide support for "transmitting said information to a...storage location; saving approved information; [and] updating related database files with respect to said approved information" as recited in independent claims 1, 5, and 9. Paragraph 3 indicates a repository of URLs to which access is granted via an icon of the Web Key tool. Paragraph 4 states that a "list [of URLs] will be updated on a regular basis." Thus, Exhibit B clearly supports conception and reduction to practice prior to May 5, 1999.

(c) Exhibit C is a user interface screen of the Web Key tool as seen by a user and which pre-dates May 5, 1999. The subject user interface screen demonstrates conception and reduction to practice as prior to May 5, 1999. Specifically, the user interface screen states "[i]f there is a site that you use on a regular basis and you believe would benefit other global procurement employees, and it is not currently included in the list below, please forward the URL to Cathy Buresch/Charlotte/IBM/ @ IBMUS." Thus, the user interface screen provides support for "receiving a request from a user client system to incorporate information relating to a web site into said web key tool" as recited in independent claims 1, 5, and 9. In addition, the user interface screen of Exhibit C illustrates categories of URL listings as recited in independent claims 1, 5, and 9, namely, Procurement Sites, Accounts Payable Sites, Travel/Meetings, Employee Services, and News/Publications. Within each category various related sites are listed as shown in the

user interface screen of Exhibit C. The applicants submit that, collectively, Exhibits A through C clearly demonstrate conception and reduction to practice prior to May 5, 1999.

4. The undersigned declare that all statements made herein of their own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 101 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: _____

Judy J. Kogut-O'Connell

Date: _____

Ryan S. Carrington


Date: _____

Jackie L. Hill

Date: _____

Catherine Ng

Date: 7/15/05



Ann T. Storms

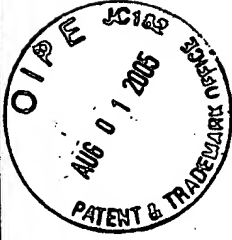


EXHIBIT A



Web-Key What is it?

- Intranet site of procurement related URLs
- Hotlinks from the listing to each web site
- Designed for direct keyboard access regardless of application in which user is working (Example Alt-Ctl-W)



Web-Key

How will this tool be valuable?

- Easy, consistent way to communicate new web sites, and update, maintain, and delete existing web sites
- Repository of sites made immediately accessible to new procurement employees
- Friendly interface for procurement employees not comfortable with internet technology



Web-Key

Who will use this Key?

- Available to all procurement employees
 - Sourcing/Fulfillment
 - GP/PP
 - Global
- Future enhancement: Increase content from PP and other GEOs



EXHIBIT B

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

storms@us.ibm.com

Visit our Procurement Web Site at <http://procure.sby1.ibm.com>
Visit our Travel Web Site at <http://w3.ibm.com/travel>

Forwarded by Ann T Storms/Poughkeepsie/IBM on

06:41 PM

Jackie Hill

01:57 PM

To: Betty Patochek/Somers/IBM@IBMUS
cc: Ann T Storms/Poughkeepsie/IBM@IBMUS
From: Jackie Hill/Poughkeepsie/IBM @ IBMUS
Subject:

Betty, below is a draft of the web-key announcement. The actual button is not included as the page itself needs to be out on the intranet before the button can link to it. Let me know what you think....

The Procurement Strategy for e-Business Team is pleased to bring you the Web-Key. The Web-Key will give you access to an extensive listing of procurement related URLs and links to these URLs. The key is designed to give direct access to this listing from your keyboard regardless of what application you are using.

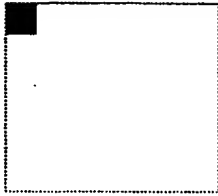
To gain access to this tool simply clicking on the button below and launch it. This action will add an internet shortcut icon to your desktop. Do not remove this icon or you will remove your direct access to the repository of URLs. Once the icon is loaded to your desktop, access the listing simply by typing Alt-Ctrl-W on your keyboard. This is a setup step which needs to only be done once and all future updates to this feature will be done automatically for you. Each time you access the site you will have the newest version of the web key.

One of the purposes of the Web-Key is to provide a directory to ensure that everyone in procurement is made aware of sites that will help them with their daily activities. If there is a site that you would like see added to this directory, please send a note to Think Net/Southbury/IBM@IBMUS. The list will be updated on a regular basis so that information remains current and new sites are added in a timely manner.

Jackie Hill
General Procurement
phone: (914)433-1058 TL 293-1058
fax: (914)433-6497 TL 293-6497
<http://w3.ibm.com/travel>

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EXHIBIT C



Are you
ready for
e-business?

Web Key

This site has been created to give global procurement employees a resource for easy web access to information that will assist with daily activities.

If there is a site that you use on a regular basis and you believe would benefit other global procurement employees, and it is not currently included in the list below, please forward the URL to Cathy Buresch/Charlotte/IBM@IBMUS.

- ▶ Procurement Sites
- ▶ Accounts Payable Sites
- ▶ Travel/Meetings
- ▶ Employee Services
- ▼ News/Publications

Buylines & Supply News

Electronic Buyer's News

IBM Intranet Site for All Employees/My News

IBM Website Index

Purchasing Magazine

WebAhead (The latest on cutting edge Internet technology.)

- ▶ How to Find People/Places/Information
- ▶ Supplier/Government Site
- ▶ Search Engines
- ▶ Geography Specific Web Sites
- ▶ IBM Divisional Intranet Sites

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